



The n-word

- The n-word was used by white people to label a person as a slave and became racist slang starting in the mid-1800s.
- Some adults and youth of color have more recently adapted it in an effort to reclaim it.

References:

Allan, Keith, and Kate Burridge. *Forbidden words: Taboo and the censoring of language*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Henderson, A. (2003). What's in a Slur?. *American Speech*, 78(1), 52-74.

Rahman, J. (2012). The N word: Its history and use in the African American community. *Journal of English Linguistics*, 40(2), 137-171.

As a part of institutionalizing cultural knowledge, moving forward in our system ...

- No teacher or leader (or anyone else in a position of power, especially in a school) should use the “n” word.
- Youth language may differ (reference slide 6).
- No person of any race should be expected to represent others of their same race.